

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Schoodic Education and Research Center  
Acadia National Park



# 2009 Grant Application Instructions and Guidelines for Research Fellowships at Acadia National Park

*L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellowship Program*  
*Schoodic Research Fellowship Program*



## Background

The National Park Service faces a number of increasingly complex issues that threaten the integrity of natural ecosystems, cultural resources, and visitor experiences at Acadia National Park. To prevent the degradation or impairment of these park values, park managers must be aware of and understand the causes and consequences of these threats. The successful management and protection of Acadia National Park therefore depend upon scientifically credible and timely answers to important questions. Research is one important tool used by the National Park Service to meet its stewardship responsibilities.

To facilitate and encourage scientific research in Acadia National Park, two research fellowship programs are being offered in 2009:

**The L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellowship:** L.L.Bean, Inc., has generously donated \$25,000 to Friends of Acadia to support field research at any location within Acadia National Park in the physical, biological, ecological, social, and cultural sciences. Grants of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded to proposals that address the park's significant natural and/or cultural resources, the experiences of visitors and local residents who use the park, and the peoples who have lived in the Acadia region.

**The Schoodic Research Fellowship:** Acadia Partners for Science and Learning has generously donated \$10,000 to support field research at the Schoodic section of Acadia National Park in the physical, biological, ecological, social, and cultural sciences. The intent of this fellowship is to expand the number of funded research projects being conducted on the Schoodic Peninsula and to bring more scientists to the Schoodic Education and Research Center campus. Grants of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded.

Acadia National Park offers an ideal natural laboratory in which to study a wide variety of research topics. Important science issues at the park include, but are not limited to, air pollution, freshwater and coastal marine eutrophication, habitat fragmentation, invasive exotic species, rare species conservation, recreation impacts on visitor experiences and natural resources, restoration of disturbed natural and cultural landscapes, and a lack of baseline data about the park's natural and cultural resources. Acadia National Park offers a diversity of landscapes, including mountains at the immediate coast, forested woodlands, lakes and ponds, forested wetlands, bogs, marshes, estuaries, extensive rocky shores, and more.

## Eligibility

Both fellowships are intended to support field research at Acadia National Park. The fellowship programs are open to undergraduate and graduate students, college and university faculty, state and federal agency scientists, private-sector research professionals, and others with appropriate backgrounds and credentials. Research fellows must be self-directed individuals whose work will contribute to the scientific knowledge of the natural and cultural resources of Acadia National Park.

Funds may be used for a variety of purposes including salary support; room, board, and travel directly associated with field work; supplies; and analytical costs. Requests for permanent equipment are not encouraged but will be considered; any permanent equipment purchased with fellowship funds remains the property of the National Park Service and, at the park's request, will be returned to the park at the end of the yearly funding cycle. Fellowship funds cannot be used for tuition, costs associated with attendance at professional meetings, publishing results, thesis preparation, fringe benefits, or institutional overhead.

In general, funding for a given project will be limited to one year only. Individuals receiving an award may apply for the L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellowship or Schoodic Research Fellowship for a different project in subsequent years. Maximum grant awards are \$5,000, and projects with matching funds are encouraged, but not required. Park office and work space, computers, and reduced-cost housing may be provided to investigators by request, and as available.

Applicants may apply to both the L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellowship and Schoodic Research Fellowship programs. However, no proposed project will receive funding from both fellowship programs.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel based on the following criteria:

- (1) potential for the research to enhance the scientific knowledge of the park's natural or cultural resources;
- (2) ability to inform resource management decision making;
- (3) technical and scientific merit of the proposal;
- (4) demonstrated ability of the investigator to carry out the proposed research; and
- (5) availability of other financial and in-kind support for the project.

Proposals that offer new research or add new elements to existing work are encouraged, rather than the extension or continuation of existing work. For the Schoodic Research Fellowships, the evaluation will also consider the extent to which the work focuses on the Schoodic section of Acadia National Park and the extent to which researchers will be residents and participants in the research and science education community at the Schoodic Education and Research Center campus.

## **Requirements of Award Recipients**

Individuals receiving an L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellowship or Schoodic Research Fellowship will be required to:

- Obtain a valid research permit from the National Park Service and fulfill all attendant conditions of the park research permit process (for additional information and specific requirements for NPS research permits, visit the park's website at: <http://www.nps.gov/acad/naturescience/researchguidelines.htm>)
- Sign a release allowing L.L.Bean, Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, Friends of Acadia, and the National Park Service to use photographs of themselves and summaries of their research results in informational materials and catalogues.
- Conduct a public presentation about their Acadia National Park research. Recipients of the Schoodic Research Fellowship will be required to give their presentation at the John G. Moore Auditorium on the Schoodic Education and Research Center campus. Recipients of the L.L.Bean Research Fellowships may also make their presentation there or at another location on Mount Desert Island.
- Provide the National Park Service with a written report on the accomplishments of the project, including a summary of research objectives, methods, and results.
- Provide the National Park Service with copies of pertinent project data, metadata, and photographs for the Acadia National Park archives.

## **Important Dates**

- December 1, 2008 - Fellowships announced
- February 15, 2009 - Applications due
- March 15, 2009 - Fellowships awarded

Final reports and other proposed deliverables are due within six months after completion of field work. Awards will be disbursed in two payments: 75% at the outset of field work, and the remaining 25% when all specified project deliverables have been received by the National Park Service.

## Application Process

Individuals interested in applying for the L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellowship and/or the Schoodic Research Fellowship programs, must submit one electronic copy [MS Word (.doc), PDF (.pdf), or rich text (.rtf) format] of the following:

- A completed application cover sheet (available at <http://www.nps.gov/acad/naturescience/sercresearch.htm>)
- A research proposal (1,500 words or less) that contains the following sections, with headings:
  - (1) project title
  - (2) the fellowship program(s) to which you are applying
  - (3) background
  - (4) research objectives
  - (5) methods
  - (6) requests for park equipment, materials, housing, and/or work space
  - (7) project budget (including any matching funds received and/or anticipated)
  - (8) project timeline
  - (9) annotated list of project deliverables
- A resume (two-page limit) highlighting key professional details and research experience, and listing up to five publications most relevant to the proposal.
- If applicable, a letter of support from an academic advisor or principal investigator.

Questions and proposal submissions should be directed to:

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